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A Brief History
of J
THE LYBARGER FAMILY

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1915

CHART OF THE FIRST FOUR GENERATIONS OF LYBARGERS IN AMERICA

JOHANN ADAM LEBERGER

(Landed at Philadelphia September 19 1732)

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NICHOLAS
(1733-1814)

LUDWICK
(1725-1798)

GEORGE
(1727-1815)

NICHOLAS, Jr.
(1753-1833)

HENRY
(1750-1820)

DANIEL
(1748-1825)

LUDWICK, Jr.
(1750-1846)

GEORGE, Jr.

Andrew, Peter, Adam, Henry,
Jesse, Daniel, Anthony
(1800-1882)

Elisabeth, Margaret
Hester, Rosana

George, Lewis, Andrew
Ludwick
(1778-1855)

INTRODUCTION

During the last few years we have been gathering information concerning the Lybarger family. We have obtained many valuable facts, but we feel that equally as many lie untouched. Therefore, we could not hope to publish a complete history. However, we have taken this means of conveying at least a portion of the records to our relatives. We hope that this will stimulate their interest in the subject, and that they will further aid us in getting more data about living Lybargers. Our records of the last three generations are incomplete, so that any bit of information will be appreciated. From our study of the earlier records in the Pennsylvania State Library we have come to certain conclusions, some of which may be incorrect. But we believe that we have not fallen very short of the actual facts in most cases.

Origin of the Family

The Lybarger family is of pure German origin. This is evident from the spelling of the name, which is decidedly German; then, many of our ancestors spoke, wrote and read German; all of the early Lybargers in Bedford County, Penna., belonged to the German Lutheran Church.

Meaning of the Name

The meaning of the name is apparent when we ascertain its possible derivation. In the German "ley," "leah," or "loh" means a bog, morass meadow, or sward land. "Bürger" means "a freedman of a burgh or borough, entitled to enjoy the privileges of the community." And so we have concluded that the name signifies a citizen of the lowlands. The spelling of the name has changed from time to time. First it was "Leberger," then "Lebarger," next "Liberger" or "Lyberger," and finally "Lybarger."

Emigration From Germany

Our ancestors emigrated from the Palatinate. Thousands of Germans came from this province into Pennsylvania in the 1700's. In "Rupp's 30,000 Names of Immigrants" (P. 76), we find the name "Johann Adam Leberger," who sailed from Rotterdam, Netherlands, and landed at Philadelphia on September 19, 1732. Rotterdam lies at the

mouth of the Rhine River. The Lower Palatinate, now Rhenish Bavaria, is a flat country along the Rhine, between the Hunsrück and Voges Mountains. The largest towns in this district are Spire and Ludwigshf, along the Rhine. The conclusion is that the Lebergers were farmers or tanners, who lived, say, near Ludwigshf. Johann Adam, then a middle-aged man, as his handwriting indicates, with his wife and family left his native village, passed down the Rhine thru Mainz, Coblenz, Bonn, and Cologne, and arrived at the seaport of Rotterdam, where he set sail for America.

Settled in America in 1732

After swearing allegiance to George II, at Philadelphia in 1732, Johann Adam settled in the neighborhood of the latter city, probably at Germantown, for so many of his countrymen were situated there. He probably reared a large family. While we have no certain proof to indicate his relationship to the next known Lybarger, but since he is the only man of even similar name listed in the records, it is apparent that he is the father of Nicholas, George and Ludwick Liberger, whose names first appear in the records of Bedford County, Penna. Johann Adam Leberger probably died near Philadelphia in about 1765.

The Three Brothers Settle in Bedford County, Penna.

In the year 1770, Nicholas, George and Ludwick, sons of Johann Adam, with their families set out from the neighborhood of Philadelphia and sailed down the Delaware to the Potomac River. They went part of the way up same by boat, and then set out by land for Cumberland, Md. Finally, they pushed up the Wills Creek Valley, and settled in Cumberland Valley Township, Bedford County, Penna. Here they purchased land, and each owned over a hundred acres. They are listed on the taxpayers' lists for the years 1773, 76, 79, 83, and 84. At various times the government surveyed land for them. (See Pennsylvania Colonial Records, Series V, Vol. 5, P. 115, etc.) They are listed in the first census taken by the U. S. government. (See "Heads of Families in Pennsylvania in 1790," P. 23.)

Nicholas Liberger (as the name was then spelled), had four sons and one daughter. Nicholas, Jr., is the only child known. He was born in 1753 and died in Erie County.

Penna., in 1833. He had emigrated to Springfield Township of that county, in 1798. Nothing further is known of him.

George emigrated to Knox County, Ohio, early in the 1800's. He served on the Grand Jury of that county in 1809, 10, and 12. His son, George, Jr., was a voter of Howard Township. (See "History of Knox County" by Norton, P. 324, etc.) Nothing further of the family is known.

Ludwick, from whom all known Lybargers trace their descent, was born in about 1725, and died in 1798. His wife's name was Barbara. They were married in 1745. He lived and died in Bedford County. He probably had a large family; but from the records we can only find Ludwick, Jr., Henry and Daniel.

Revolutionary War Record

On May 19, 1778, Samuel Paxton, a resident of Cumberland Valley Township, organized the 4th Company of the 1st Batallion of Bedford County Militia. It was known as the Wills Creek Settlement Company. Its officers were: Captain Paxton, Lieutenant Kelly and Ensign Wood. We find the following Libergers enlisted in this company: Ludwick, Sr., George, Nicholas, Sr., Nicholas, Jr., and Henry. It is concluded that the company saw actual service in the war. (See "Penna. Archives," Series V, Vol. 5, Ps. 76, 82, 83, and 115.)

The Sons of Ludwick, Sr.

Ludwick Lybarger, Jr., was born in about 1750 and died in 1846. He was an early settler of Londonderry Township, Bedford County. He located near Wolf Camp Run on the road to Cumberland, Md. His wife's name was Phebe. They were married in 1773. When the Whiskey Rebellion broke out in 1793, he became lieutenant of the 4th Company, 1st Batallion of Bedford County Militia. (See "Penna. Archives," Series VI, Vol. 5, P. 115, etc.) He was a tanner by trade, as probably were his ancestors. He was a man of great physical strength, and retained all of his teeth until his death. The court records of Bedford County show his sons to have been: George, Lewis, Andrew and Ludwick.

Henry, son of Ludwick, Sr., was born December 28,

1759, and died July 31, 1820. His wife's name was Barbara, born in 1761, and died September 8, 1828. He served in the Revolution, as noted above. He is also listed on the census books of 1790. In 1805 a communion service of the Lutheran Church was held at his home. Many Lybargers attended. His male children were: Andrew, Peter, Jesse, Henry, Jr., Daniel, Anthony, Edwin, and Adam.

Daniel, son of Ludwick, Sr., was born in about 1748, and died in 1825. He was a blacksmith by trade, and resided in Bedford Borough. He was a member of the Methodist Church. His children were: Elizabeth (Geller), Margaret (Cruseberg), Hester, and Rosanna. Nothing more of the family is known.

The Sons of Ludwick, Jr.

George, son of Ludwick, Jr., was born in about 1773. He emigrated to Knox County, Ohio in 1808. From Gen. Edwin L. Lybarger we learn that he had two daughters, Rosie (Durbin) and Mary (Rogers).

Lewis, who is generally called Ludwick, also came to Knox County early in the 1800's. His sons were: Lewis, Jr., George, Samuel (grandfather of Lee F. Lybarger), Jacob and Joseph.

Andrew, son of Ludwick, Jr., was born in Bedford County on April 15, 1778. He died on January 15, 1855. He married Naomi Thompson, daughter of James Thompson, who served in James Maxwell's Company, 2d Battalion, 2d Establishment, New Jersey Continental Line, during the Revolution. She was born on March 8, 1783, and died August 31, 1867. Andrew emigrated to Knox County, Ohio, in 1809. He was a tanner by trade, and his tannery in Danville, Ohio, was inherited by his son, Hiram. During the War of 1812, Andrew served in "Johnson's Riflemen." His children were: William (1809-1900); George; Frances (1825-1844); Mary Ann; Rebecca (Anderson); Lydia (Knapp); James T. (1804-1864), who married Amelia Crum (1813-1902), grandfather of Jesse J. Lybarger; and Hiram (1818-1882), father of the late Jasper Lybarger.

Ludwick, son of Ludwick, Jr., was born 1776, and died about 1834. His wife's name was Elizabeth. He inherited his father's tannery. His children were: Elizabeth, Esther,

Lewis, George (1791-1877), who married his cousin, Magdeline (1793-1848), great-grandfather of Ira Lybarger, of Cleveland; Kathrine, Mary, Marion, Valentine (1798-), grandfather of Milo M. Lybarger, of Weston, Ohio; John (1802-1849), whose descendants still live in Bedford County; Henry, Rebecca, Ann, Jacob, Daniel (1811-1873), grandfather of Charles B. Lybarger, of Kansas City, Mo.

The Sons of Henry

This family also emigrated to Knox County, Ohio, early in the 1800's. Daniel, son of Henry, had the following children: Henry, Hiram, Alvan, Marvin, Ester, and Hannah.

Peter, son of Henry, was the father of: Joshua, Sophia, Silas, Rebecca, and Martha.

Adam, son of Henry, had: Samuel, Levi, William, Hezekiah, and Michael.

Henry, Jr., had the following children: Cathrine, Julia, Eva, Matilda, Jacob, Jesse, Joshua, Hugh and Noah.

Jesse, son of Henry, was born in 1803. He married Susan Geller. Their children were: Julian, Joseph, Adam, Alexander, Harmon, Martha, Phebe, George, Richard, Henrietta and Rebecca (Fulmer).

Daniel was the father of: Lewis, Valentine, Uriah, Drusilla (Baker) and Elizabeth (Geller).

Anthony, son of Henry, was born in 1800, and died in 1882. He owned a grist and saw mill in Richland County, Ohio. His children were: William, Mary, Ann, Dr. Silas C., and Job, father of Dr. Edwin B. Lybarger.

Hannah and Magdeline (Lybarger) were daughters of Henry. The family lived in Harrison Township, Knox County, Ohio, and was prominent in the activities of the Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Sixth Generation—Sons of Ludwick, Jr.'s Sons

Of Lewis' sons, we have only the record of Samuel, who had the following children: Delila (Sprague); Rachel (McGinnis); Hezekiah (1821-1893); Hannah (Hammond); Cathrine (Trimble); Jacob, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Samuel; Amanda (Saltsman); Asa, and Aaron, of Mifflinburg, Pa.

Of Andrew's children, William was the father of Frank. Elevia and Upton. James T. had the following children:

Thompson (1827-1910); Elijah C. (1838-1889); and Edwin L., of Warsaw, Ohio. Hiram had one son, Jasper.

Of Ludwick's sons, George had the following children: Tilda, Marie, Eliza, Caroline, Rebecca, Mary, Simon, Eli, George, Jr., Lewis, and Valentine. John, son of Ludwick, had one son, David. Valentine had the sons: Emanuel, William, Jack and Nathaniel. Daniel was the father of Solomon, Enoch, Rolison, George, of Susanville, Cal.; John, Daniel, Jr., Margaret, Cathrine, and Marie.

Sons of Henry's Sons

Our records of this family being incomplete, we are only able to give the following names. Of Jesse's children, Joseph was the father of Stephen, of Lawrence, Kansas; and Eva (Counts), of Indianapolis.

Of Anthony's sons, Silas was the father of Clement, Sylvia and Curtis. Job was the father of Edwin B., of Shelby, Ohio; Mary, Carrie, Emma, Margaret, Anthony, Roderick, Wilbur, John, Marcus, Oliver, Rollen and Susan.

Of Daniel's children, Lewis was the father of Andrew, Valentine, Oliver, Barton, Lydia, Esther and Harrison.

Conclusion

But here we must stop. Under the circumstances, it is necessary that this brief sketch of the first six generations of Lybargers suffice; for with each added generation our account becomes more complicated. And so we shall conclude our sketch with a few general remarks concerning the family.

It is our opinion that the Lybargers in Germany were not mere peasants. They evidently had a certain amount of education; for the handwriting of Johann Adam, a specimen of which we have in our possession, is written in good, clear German script. It is likely that they were tanners, for we find that their descendants in America were engaged in this business for three generations. This would indicate that the trade was well established in the family. The tanner was a man of no small means, for he occupied an important place in every community, as did the miller and smith.

The early Lybargers in Germany and America were Lutherans. The Palatinate accepted the Reformation in

Luther's day. In Bedford County we find them active in the affairs of the Lutheran Church there. David Lybarger, grandson of Ludwick 3d, donated ground for a church and cemetery at Madley Station, Spellman, Pa. On the corner-stone appears the inscription, "Lybarger Church, October, 1883." Jesse J. Lybarger delivered an address from the pulpit of this church in the Spring of 1912.

In arriving at our conclusion concerning their emigration to Western Pennsylvania, we have followed the usual route used in the days when Bedford County was being opened to settlers. We have never located any ancestors who settled in any other place but Bedford County. All seem to have gone to that county in about 1770, and then to have scattered to various other localities in the early 1800's.

Ohio was admitted to the Union in 1803. It was then that this vast stretch of fertile farmland was thrown open to settlers, and the tide of emigration rapidly turned westward. Our ancestors traveled down the Ohio River, ascended its smaller tributaries, and took up farms in Coshocton and Knox counties, Ohio. From here, many of the later generations moved farther west, and so today there are Lybargers living thruout the entire United States.

It will be noticed that all known Lybargers are descendants of Ludwick Lybarger, and furthermore, that all are descended from either Henry or Ludwick, Jr. This greatly simplifies our relationship, since all come from either of two heads.

Of the writers of this pamphlet, Jesse J. Lybarger (7th generation), is a native of Knox Co., Ohio, and his son, Donald F. Lybarger, was born in Harrisburg, Pa.

In conclusion we would say that our work is not completed; it is just beginning. There are many descendants that we have not discovered; there are many living Lybargers of whom we have no knowledge. It is our aim to make a complete record of all Lybargers; and to accomplish our end, we need the co-operation of every one interested. We would urge that our relatives send us whatever information they may be able to get. No matter how small, it will be appreciated. We are at all times glad to answer correspondence concerning the family.

Acknowledgment

In gathering information about the family, we have been greatly aided by a host of relatives. Especially do we desire to express our appreciation to the following:

(DESCENDANTS OF LUDWICK, JR.)

Gen. Edwin Lewis Lybarger, Warsaw, Ohio.

Jasper Lybarger (deceased).

Edwin H. Lybarger, Cleveland, Ohio.

Harry S. Lybarger, Coshocton, Ohio.

Lewis H. Lybarger, R. D. No. 2,
Dover, Minn.

Martin H. Lybarger, Canton;, S.D.

William D. Lybarger, 600 Fifth Ave.,
Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Chas. B. Lybarger, 460 Donnelly Av.,
Kansas City, Mo.

Simon Lybarger, Anaheim Cal.

John A. Lybarger, Speelman, Bedford
County, Pa.

Asa Lybarger, R.D. Box 62, Lafayette,
Col.

Milo M. Lybarger, Weston, Ohio.

Riley H. Lybarger, Neapolis, Ohio.

Ira Lybarger, Cleveland, Ohio.

Elijah F. Lybarger, Philo, Ohio.

Miss M. E. Lybarger, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Lee Francis Lybarger, Mifflinsburg, Pa.

(DESCENDANTS OF HENRY)

Dr. Edwin. B. Lybarger, Shelby, Ohio.

Mrs. Eva L. Counts, 1808 College Ave.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Mrs. Rebecca L. Fulmer, Buckeye City,
Ohio.

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